

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday 30th August, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader), I.M. German, D.M. Holder, R.W. Hughes, G.M. Kensler, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts, W.R. Webb, K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers: Councillors S. Drew and M.LI. Davies.

APOLOGIES

Councillor D.M. Morris.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director of Resources, Financial Controller and the Legal Services Manager.

1. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following items which in his opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972:-

- (i) Foot and Mouth Enquiry - Letter from the WLGA.
- (ii) Joint CLAW / WLGA Conference: Launch of Asset Management Planning Guidelines for Wales.
- (iii) Agenda Item 18 be withdrawn.
- (iv) Agenda Item 23 be withdrawn.

2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 31 July (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

Item 12 Teachers - Premature Retirement Benefits: Councillor G.M. Kensler asked whether the matter was to be discussed at the meeting. The Corporate Director of Resources said a report on the item would be produced for the Cabinet meeting to be held on 13.09.2001.

Item 14 Flood Emergency Works - Design and Supervision: Councillor W.R. Webb referred to the temporary traffic lights at Pwllglas. He was concerned that the matter had not been resolved to date and enquired as to the cost to the County over the last 12 months. The Leader undertook to ask the Corporate Director of the Environment to provide a full report for the next Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED that subject to the above the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 July 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3. RECRUITMENT

Councillor A.E. Roberts, the Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the following applications for approval and said it was hoped that young people would be encouraged to apply. Councillor G.M. Kensler queried whether finance for the posts deferred from the last Cabinet meeting

had been resolved. In response, Councillor E.A. Owens said that although budgets were limited, the Director of Personal Services had stressed the need for the posts:-

- (i) SO2 Occupational Therapist: Personal Services, Occupational Therapy, Prestatyn
- (ii) Sc 1 Data Input Assistant : Personal Services Admin Section, Ruthin
- (iii) Sc 1 Admin Assistant: Personal Services Admin Section Henllan - This would be advertised as a Modern Apprentice post
- (iv) Sc 1 Word Processor Operator: Personal Services Admin Section, Ruthin
- (v) PO1 Two Senior Practitioners: Personal Services Children's Services, Rhyl
- (vi) SW2-3 Social Worker Brain Injury Service: Social Work, Colwyn Bay Hospital
- (vii) Sc 2 Team Clerk to Occupational Therapy Team: Personal Services Admin

RESOLVED that the external advertisement of the above mentioned posts be approved.

4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION IN WORLD CITIZENSHIP (CEWC) - CYMRU

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the nomination of a Member for consideration by the WLGA to represent them on the Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC) - Cymru. The Leader said Councillor T.M. Parry had been the representative on CEWC - Cymru but was not well at the present time. Members agreed the Leader send Councillor Parry the Cabinet's good wishes.

Councillor W.R. Webb suggested Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT be nominated.

RESOLVED that Members nominate Councillor K.E. Wells for consideration by the WLGA to represent them on the Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC) - Cymru.

5. INCORPORATION OF A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE TO DELIVER LEADER PLUS

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the County Council's membership of a company limited by guarantee to be incorporated to deliver LEADER Plus, to nominate a representative to serve as a director of the company and to authorise the Head of Economic Regeneration to nominate an officer of his unit to act as company secretary.

The application for LEADER Plus funding by a local action group serving the rural areas of Denbighshire and Flintshire had been approved and it was necessary to make arrangements to deliver the programme by the formation of a company limited by guarantee with equal representation from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

After discussion, Members approved the report in its entirety and the Council nomination of a member to represent the Council on the new group would be brought back to a later meeting of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED accordingly.

6. WALES EUROPEAN CENTRE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the use of the County Council's Corporate budget to meet the cost of its annual subscription to Wales European Centre Limited. The payment of membership fees is consistent with a reduction in the payments made to the WLGA during the period 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

Members queried both the non-payment of the subscription for the period 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and whether other Authorities in Wales were in a similar position. After discussion, Members agreed to defer the report until more detail became available.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) defer the report, and
- (b) the Financial Controller and Head of Economic Regeneration jointly provide information on the non-payment of the subscription in a further report to Cabinet.

7. ATTENDANCE AT BEST VALUE CONFERENCE 2001

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to nominate one Member and one officer to represent Denbighshire County Council at the District Audit Best Value Conference due to be held on 7 November 2001 at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.

Councillor Edwards suggested that Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value, the Chair of Best Value Scrutiny and the Best Value Manager attend the Conference. Members agreed with Councillor A.E. Owens suggestion that the travel costs be minimised.

RESOLVED that Councillor E.W. Williams and the Chair of Best Value Scrutiny along with the Best Value Manager attend the Best Value Conference on 7 November 2001 at Cardiff.

8. REPRESENTATION ON THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report by the Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to reconsider Denbighshire County Council membership on the Court of the University of Wales. At the Cabinet meeting on 28.06.2001 Members agreed to a reduction from 5 to 3 Members representing Denbighshire County Council on the Court of the University of Wales. It was further agreed at the Cabinet meeting that 1 Independent, 1 Labour and 1 Cabinet Member be Denbighshire's representatives until 21.03.2002.

Councillor K.E. Wells suggested that a misunderstanding over membership had arisen at the earlier Cabinet meeting. Councillor Wells suggested the membership should cover the whole of County Council by having 2 Non-Executive Members and 1 Executive Member.

Councillor E.W. Williams suggested that Cabinet should be structured on a political balance.

RESOLVED that two Non-Executive and one Executive Member be nominated to represent Denbighshire County Council on the Court of the University of Wales.

9. REVENUE BUDGET 2001/2001

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration to the latest budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the Appendix to the report and to consider necessary actions to ensure the budget was not overspent.

Councillor Owens detailed the budget pressures as set out in the Appendices. Some were recommended to be funded from the contingency fund which would then be fully allocated so if a major emergency occurred Members would need to look at the budgets across the Directorates again.

Councillor G.M. Kensler queried the Chief Executive's Department budget position. Councillor Owens said that the Chief Executive's Department had budget pressures but efficiency savings had been made and at this stage no net pressures were evident. All the budgets would be subject to a flexible review process.

Councillor W.R. Webb queried the closure of the Old Chapel, Llangollen. The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure said the Old Chapel was a capital development and that the grant to ECTARC was unaffected.

Councillor E.W. Williams congratulated the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and officers on all their hard work. However, he felt that not all the Directorates were working in the same way with some of the Directorates not filling vacant posts to stay within budget. This could be detrimental to service provision and could lead to further pressures, Cabinet should address the principles and ensure a uniform approach to service delivery was taken by all Directorates. Councillor Owens said Cabinet had earlier agreed to the advertisement of some vacancies in Personal Services that were essential to the delivery of services despite the budget implications.

Councillor E.A. Owens thanked the Corporate Director of Resources who had attended all the budget meetings along with the Financial Controller and said she was pleased with the number of Non-Executive Members who have attended the budget meetings.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked for further detail on both the Elderly Residential Services loss of income and the Community Care Mental Illness client numbers referred to in the Appendix. In response the Acting Director of Personal Services said a trend had appeared over the last year or so that clients had less capital available when entering residential care homes which resulted in the loss of income to the service. The numbers entering such homes could not be forecast. Turning to the increasing numbers of clients with mental illness requiring residential care, the Acting Director of Personal Services said many of the patients from the now closed North Wales Hospital, Denbigh still reside in Denbighshire. The Acting Director of Personal Services said even greater financial contributions were required and there was a need to forge strategic partnerships to pool resources wherever possible to ensure a cost effective approach to care is achieved.

RESOLVED that Members agree the report.

10. RUTHIN TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the grant of a lease to Ruthin Town Football Club to utilise the area detailed on the plan attached to the report.

Ruthin Town Football Club had approached the Council with a view to utilising the area in conjunction with existing football pitches and to provide an adequate training / playing area for the junior / youth sector of the Club. Currently the site is 'landlocked' The land would be retained by the County Council with ground maintenance and grass cutting becoming the responsibility of Ruthin Town Football Club.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) *approve the grant of a lease to Ruthin Town Football Club for the use of the land hatched black on the attached plan, in conjunction with their existing pitches. The lease to be of sufficient length and in such terms as to be able to gain possession when required, to enable the development of the new proposed school. The rent to be set at £10.00 per annum and the Club to be responsible for the maintenance of the boundaries and grass cutting, and*
- (b) *the lease to contain such other terms and conditions as requested by the County Clerk.*

11. PRESTATYN: ICE CREAM PARLOUR, FFRITH BEACH FESTIVAL GARDENS

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property and Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for an abatement of rent for the Ice Cream Parlour at the Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens.

The unit was let on a five year lease from 23.05.1997 at a rent of £6,000.00 per annum. A 66% abatement of rent had been granted from 23.05.1997 to 22.05.2000 due to poor trading conditions. The tenant had requested a further abatement of rent to include the 2001 and 2002 season (up to the end of the term of the lease).

RESOLVED that Members approve the grant of a further abatement of rent of 66% for the period up to 22 May 2002, the abatement to be a personal arrangement with the tenant. This would be subject to the payment in full of any rent arrears.

12. COMMUNITIES FIRST

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval to include an additional four areas of the County within the Communities First Programme.

The National Assembly for Wales have already informed Denbighshire County Council that Rhyl West and Rhyl South West had been selected for inclusion in the Communities First Programme and further communication received had made clear that the National Assembly for Wales was prepared to consider sub-ward pockets of deprivation which met the specific criteria. Areas of Meliden, Upper Denbigh, Rhyl East and Bodelwyddan met the criteria and information on these areas has been sent to the National Assembly for Wales.

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorse the inclusion of the four areas in the Communities First Programme and required a further report once the outcome of the bid was known.

13. AUTHORISATION OF NEW INSPECTOR

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval to authorise Roger Beresford Rowett to inspect homes within Denbighshire.

RESOLVED that Members approve the authorisation of the named officer.

14. PARTNERSHIPS WITH HEALTH

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet endorsement to ask the Social Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee to assist in the development of policies related to strategic partnerships with Health Services.

The National Assembly for Wales has clear expectations that Social Services and Health need to work in partnership to achieve better outcomes for local people.

Councillor E.A. Owens said it was most important that Members understood the expanding role of both the County Council and Councillors. Scrutiny Committee needed a clear perception of the role and support would be required for individual Councillors for their enhanced role. Councillor Owens said she hoped clear and definite training proposals would be provided for Councillors, with funds set aside to achieve this. Councillor G.M. Kensler said a link with ICT would be required. Councillor D.M. Holder agreed training courses needed to be provided.

RESOLVED that Members agree that Cabinet ask the Social Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee develop policies related to strategic partnerships with Health Services and that there be a report back to Cabinet in 3 months.

15. DISTRICT AUDIT REPORT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking acceptance of the District Audit report and requesting assistance from the Social Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee in developing an appropriate response. The Audit of Rehabilitation Services for Older People in Conwy and Denbighshire (from September to October 2000) looked at services across Social Services and Health.

Councillor E.A. Owens said a strategy and comprehensive plan for the Cabinet would be required within 3 months and a plan should be made available to Members within a few days. The Acting

Corporate Director of Personal Services confirmed a detailed plan could be produced for Members within the time limit requested.

Councillor G.M. Kensler said she particularly welcomed the rehabilitation schemes at S6 and the development of community rehabilitation teams as the focus-one-stop-shop for a range of services at S8 within the document.

RESOLVED that Cabinet accept the District Audit report and request the Social Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee to develop an appropriate policy response with a report back to Cabinet in 3 months..

16. MA CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to offer up to 5 places on an MA Change Management programme being conducted by Anglesey County Council in conjunction with Liverpool John Moore's University. By joining the Anglesey programme, Denbighshire County Council could pilot the scheme, tailored to meet the needs of local government, to evaluate the benefits for a possible Denbighshire corporate MA in the future.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the places on Anglesey's programme this year and the £5,000 cost be borne centrally.

17. CHRISTMAS LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the proposed Christmas leave arrangements for 2001.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the additional half day's statutory leave for Monday 24 December 2001 in addition to the half day's leave traditionally granted to employees by the Council.

18. GCAT2 AGREEMENT

The report was withdrawn.

19. NORTH WALES INDOOR ATHLETICS FACILITY

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet endorsement of a decision by officers not to pursue a Sportlot bid for capital grant to develop a new North Wales Indoor Athletics Facility in Denbighshire. The closing date for submission was 20 August 2001.

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorse the decision not to submit a bid for Sportlot grant to develop an indoor athletics facility for North Wales.

20. POLICY AGREEMENTS

The Corporate Director of Resources reported verbally on the current position on Policy Agreements and the individual targets agreed with the National Assembly for Wales. The Corporate Director of Resources distributed an update to Members which included a Draft copy of the Policy Agreement and the Draft Protocol for Evaluating Performance. Scrutiny Committee had discussed Policy Agreements in July 2001 but it was suggested that individual Scrutinees should take the opportunity of a final review in their September meetings, ensuring the policy and resource implications were understood. The WLGA and National Assembly for Wales had over the last 6 months produced a draft document "Consultation on Protocol for Evaluating Performance Against Policy Agreement Targets and Commitments".

The Corporate Director of Resources asked Members to agree a response to the Draft Protocol on the 13 September 2001 as well as discussing the Fundamental Themes included in the Draft Policy Agreement. Individual Scrutiny Committees would consider the documents by mid September 2001.

Members could also decide how the funding of £327k would be utilised at the Cabinet meeting on 25.09.2001, as well as finalising the Policy Agreement.

RESOLVED that Members agree the report.

21. FOOT AND MOUTH - ENQUIRY

The Leader, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the paper (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' views on the Government's intention to hold inquiries into the Foot and Mouth outbreak. The Government's preferred option was to hold specific inquiries rather than a public inquiry.

Councillor G.M. Kensler agreed the need for an inquiry and pressed for a public inquiry. Councillor E.A. Owens said if a public inquiry was the first choice the WLGA would need to consult again with the 22 Authorities in Wales.

Councillor E.W. Williams said whilst the letter was vague, Authorities should press for a public inquiry but if support for this was not forthcoming then a specific inquiry should be held.

RESOLVED that Members agree the Leader write to the WLGA stating Denbighshire's preference for a public inquiry but accepting a specific inquiry if that was the only available option.

22. JOINT CLAW / WLGA CONFERENCE - LAUNCH OF ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR WALES

The Leader, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the paper (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' agreement for attendance at the Joint CLAW / WLGA Conference on the Launch of Asset Management Planning Guidelines for Wales to be held on 13 September 2001 at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells.

After discussion Members agreed to send an officer rather than a Member to the Conference. A Cabinet meeting to review budgets was planned for that day.

RESOLVED that one officer attend the Conference to be held on 13 September 2001.

At this juncture (11.10 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

24. SINGLE TENDER APPROVAL

The report was withdrawn.

25. CULTURE AND LEISURE ZERO BUDGET 2001-2002

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of the financial position of Culture and Leisure in the context of the zero base exercise, to ratify the remedial actions taken to countermand the projections for 2001-2002 and make recommendations for the future. Councillor Hughes stressed to Members that none of the facilities in Denbighshire had been closed but options were detailed in the report which could secure sufficient savings.

The Leader suggested the formation of a task group to consider the way forward. Councillor E.A. Owens said this would be useful to formulate the next year's budget but would not resolve the current budget pressures. The Corporate Director of Resources agreed and recommended the

validation of this year's budget pressures but the formation of a task group to consider the services was essential for next year.

Councillor K.E. Wells said Local Authorities provide services on behalf of the community which are not always profitable.

Councillor G.M. Kensler congratulated both Councillor R.W. Hughes and E.A. Owens on the paper. Councillor Kensler reminded Members that Libraries in Denbighshire already spend the least on the purchase of books in Wales.

Councillor W.R. Webb agreed with the need for a task group to consider the way forward. Councillor Webb said more social problems are created when leisure facilities are diminished. Turning to the One Stop Shops, Councillor Webb suggested that these should be managed by the Chief Executive's Department as they were not compatible with Culture and Leisure. Councillor E.W. Williams said the Corwen One Stop Shop situated in the Library worked well.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Members note the implications from the zero based exercise of the Culture and Leisure budget, and*
- (b) *a task group be established and report back to Cabinet by November 2001.*

26. REVENUES DIVISION REVISED STRUCTURE

Councillor E.A. Owens, the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the revised management structure of the Revenues functions based in Russell House as part of the response to the operational problems previously identified. This included the transfer of the Housing Rents function to the Housing Department.

The Financial Controller reported that Cabinet had previously agreed to increase the budget and staffing in Revenues and also requested the Resources Scrutiny Committee to review the recovery of the services involved. Part of this exercise had been a review of the management structure of the services which was felt to have a lack of focus on reserves other than Benefits. The proposed structure would improve the focus on other services. It was felt that the Housing Rents should be part of the Housing Service and that the support functions would be better placed with the Head of Exchequer. The proposed structure would devolve the work to the teams which would lead to better management and supervision of the services.

Councillor D.M. Holder asked whether the revised structure would lead to additional costs. In response the Financial Controller said this would not incur additional costs at the top level of the structure.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) *approve the proposed management structure detailed in the Appendix, and*
- (b) *approve the transfer of the Housing Rents service to the Housing Department.*

The meeting concluded at 11.55 a.m.

VACANCY CONTROL
APPROVAL FOR THE FILLING OF VACANT POSTS BY EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Section: Cultural Services

Post Title: Archives Assistant

Salary Grade: Sc 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT
(This part must be completed for all posts)

This post is a temporary post until 31st March, 2003 initially, due to the present postholder being seconded to another position within the Department.

This is a front line post and one that needs to be filled urgently, as the previous postholder has already commenced her new position.

This post has been advertised internally, but only attracted one candidate. The Head of Service would like approval to advertise externally in order to widen the field. The internal candidate would be considered along with any other applications that we receive.

Signed: Shirley Bower (Corporate Director)

Dated: 27 August 2001

Signed: Cheryl Jones (Lead Member)

Dated: 27-08-01

To: Cabinet

Signed: [Signature] (Leader)

Date: 4.9.2001

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

Financial Controller Statement

The zero based budget report to the last Cabinet

highlighted £8k worth of pressures within the Service
with no offsetting savings yet identified.

The pressures are part of the overall net projected
overspend of £103k for Culture + Leisure in the current
financial year.

Please return this form to

Emma Safhill, Personnel Officer, Directorate of Lifelong Learning, Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Danbigh.

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: LEADER

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF WLGA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME BOARD

1. **DECISION SOUGHT**

To consider nominating a Member from the Labour Group for consideration by the W.L.G.A. to represent them on the Public Private Partnership Programme Board (4Ps).

2. **REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

2.1 A vacancy has arisen on the above Board following the resignation of the current W.L.G.A. representative. In line with the appointment policy of the Association all member Authorities are invited to nominate candidates to fill the vacancy and the appointment will then be determined from the nominations received.

2.2 The place that needs to be filled on the Board of the 4Ps is among the appointments made by the Labour Group of the Local Government Association and nominations will be passed to the W.L.G.A.s Labour Group so that it will make a recommendation to L.G.A.s Labour Group.

2.3 To assist you in your selection you may wish to note the following information regarding the Board:-

"The Public Private Partnership Programme - the 4Ps - is local government's own agency. It was set up by the local authority associations in April 1996 with cross party support and is financed and accountable to local government through a Board appointed by the LGA.

The 4Ps strategy is to help local authorities increase investment in local services through PFI and Public Private Partnerships by:

- helping individual local authorities develop practical schemes;
- helping all local authorities learn from the experience of others;
- lobbying to change the legal and institutional arrangements to make them more appropriate for public private partnerships.

The 4Ps has authority in its lobbying work because of its grass roots experience and it has credibility with local authorities because of its national success - through its lobbying activities and its influence on legislation and negotiations."

2.4 It is proposed that the appointment will be determined at the September Meeting of the W.L.G.A. Co-ordinating Committee and nominations should be sent to the Principal Administrator by 14th September, 2001.

3. **COST IMPLICATIONS**

None

4. **FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

Not applicable.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Not applicable.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Not applicable.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Cabinet consider nominating a Member from the Labour Group for consideration by the W.L.G.A. to represent them on the Public Private Partnership Programme Board.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 13 September 2000

SUBJECT: Process Leading to the Regeneration Strategy for Rhyl

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To advise Cabinet of the process developed that will lead to the preparation and implementation of a strategy for Rhyl, in particular the process of consultation leading to the formation of a vision for the future of the town

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Detailed consideration has been given over the last few months into the practicalities of developing a holistic regeneration strategy for Rhyl. In the light of the way previous strategies have been progressed, the need to ensure engagement of all sectors of the community and business sectors has been paramount.

Consequently, it is suggested that an approach of facilitating the key groups in Rhyl, to identify and agree a vision for Rhyl, together with a balanced partnership to oversee the development of the vision and to identify key themes which will be the core of the strategy, is the correct way forward.

The paper is intended to advise Cabinet Members of the process, and to set out the time scale for the work to be undertaken.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS

The need for a comprehensive regeneration strategy for Rhyl, is undoubted. Not just from the perspective of the need to deal with some of the significant problems evident in the town, but also to enable successful bids for the money required to implement some of the required schemes.

The legacy of past attempts to develop a strategy, and the particular problems associated with consultation with key groups has also heavily influenced the thinking in the development of the suggested process.

It is vital that the vision adopted is seen by the community and business sectors as their strategy, and that these key partners are fully committed to pursuing the agreed course of action. Denbighshire County Council cannot complete the task itself; it can merely facilitate the process. The role of the community and business sectors in setting the agenda and ensuring that it is delivered is vital if the major change in the image and perception of Rhyl is to be achieved.

Due to the importance of this the County in partnership with the WDA has funded the appointment of a facilitator to drive this process of consultation, leading to the creation of a vision and a partnership. It is intended that this process will commence in October, with a view to concluding the initial stages of work prior to the end of the year. Representatives of the County Council and the Town Council will be involved.

It is envisaged that actions for the County Council will emerge from the process at an early stage, and the Cabinet will be advised of these, and the results of the consultation process, in order to develop the implementation phase of the strategy.

4. COST IMPLICATIONS

The costs will be shared with the WDA, and can be contained within this year's financial allocations. It is likely that the costs of implementing the strategy will be significant, however it is not possible to quantify this at this stage. Further Cabinet approval will be sought when these have been identified.

5. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It will be necessary to report back when detailed costs are known to ensure that any cost implications can be contained within the funding available.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The paper sets out the process of consultation, which will lead to the development of the regeneration strategy for Rhyl.

7. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The development of this strategy is a key corporate priority. As such it is considered that the implementation of the strategy will cut across all Directorates. Once the vision has been developed by the stakeholders within the town a process of consultation within the County Council and with key partner organisations will be pursued to develop a methodology for delivering the vision.

8. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is invited to support the process being adopted leading to the development of a regeneration strategy for Rhyl and to support the involvement of Rhyl County Councillors in the process.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER : LEADER
DATE: : 13 SEPTEMBER 2001
SUBJECT : DENBIGHSHIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To seek Cabinet approval to proposed changes in the maximum grant levels and delegated levels for the range of business support measures offered by the County Council. The proposals are detailed in Appendix 1.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Cabinet will be aware that the County Council, through the Economic Regeneration Unit, offers a range of grant packages available to local businesses designed to encourage business growth and the creation of new employment opportunities, promote new marketing activity, the formation of new business and the adoption of ITC by agricultural business, including farms

The range of grants offered has increased since April 1996, as the Council has sought to meet the needs of local business. It has become apparent that there is a need to revise grant levels and increase eligibility for some grants.

Business Development Grant has proved extremely successful in encouraging the development of local business. The average grant awarded is £9,096. Delegated authority to myself and the Head of Economic Regeneration exists for application for grants upto £5,000. Previously, there has been no upper level to the amount of grant awarded. State Aid regulations now prescribe that the maximum grant a local authority may award is £15,000. I propose, therefore, that the maximum BDG be restricted to £15,000, and that the scheme of delegation be amended to reflect this.

The **Marketing Grant** has proven to be a successful means of encouraging enhanced marketing activity in local business. The average project cost is £4,428. This has increased from £3,549 in 1999. I propose, therefore, that the maximum grant level be increased to £2,000.

Computers for Farmers has proven to be an incentive to encourage local farmers to develop the ITC capability of the farms. There has, however, been an increase in interest in this grant from non agricultural businesses. I propose, therefore, that the maximum grant level be increased to £500 and that the range of eligible business be widened to include micro businesses, that is, those employing between 1 and 5 employees. Any application must be accompanied by a declaration from one of the two IT Centres in the County that the proposed purchase will benefit business activity.

The **Enterprise Grant** is working well and no further amendments are proposed.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Funding to provide the Financial Support Programme is provided through the County Council's matched funding to a successful Objective 1 application.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS STATEMENT

Care will need to be exercised to ensure the level of spending on support is within the total funding available especially as the levels of delegation on individual bids is increasing.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Wales European Funding Office, Denbighshire Enterprise Agency and Ynys Mon County Council.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The proposed changes will assist the County Council in meeting the targets outlined in its Economic Development Strategy.

7. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.

<u>Name Of Grant</u>	<u>Grant Levels</u>			<u>Delegation Levels</u>		<u>Appendix 1</u>
	Current Maximum Grant	Average Grant	Proposed Maximum Grant	Current Level of Delegation	Proposed Level of Delegation	
Business Development Grant	No Upper Limit, 25% of Capital Expenditure	£9,069	£15,000	£5,000	£15,000	
Marketing Grant	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000	£2,000	
Computers For Farmers	£250	£250	£500	£250	£500	
Enterprise Grants	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	

CABINET - 13th September, 2001

LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Report by the Lead Cabinet Member for Life Long Learning

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider nominations received for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located subject to Council's approval of the criteria for selection.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Prior to 1st April, 1996 the appointment of LEA Governors was administered by the previous Clwyd County Council as Local Education Authority.
- 2.2 Under the Education (School Government) Regulations 1989 this function now falls to Denbighshire County Council in respect of those Schools within County.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the following nomination(s) for LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved, the names listed below being the names nominated by the Local Member(s) for the Schools.

DENBIGH YSGOL TWM O'R NANT

Local Member: Councillor N.J. Hughes - R.E. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr R.E. Jones 2.2.04

Cllr N.J. Hughes 18.12.00

Mr David Baugh, Bodeiliog Ganol, Ffordd Bodeiliog, Denbigh 2.2.04

NOMINATION

Cllr N.J. Hughes.

LLANDYRNOG C.P. (YSGOL BRYN CLWYD)

Local Member: Councillor A.E. Roberts

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr A.E. Roberts 18.12.00

Miss Hazel Wright, Lodge Farm, Llangynhafal, Denbigh 31.8.04

NOMINATION

Cllr A.E. Roberts.

PRESTATYN YSGOL Y LLYS C.P.

Local Member: Councillor G.A. Clague - K.E. Wells

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Mr John Purser, 13 Rhodfa Derwen, Nant Parc, Prestatyn	17.5.05
Mr Gareth Davies, 81 Victoria Road, Prestatyn	31.8.04
Mr R.G. Griffiths, Errigal, 8 Clwyd Avenue, Dyserth, Rhyl	Resigned

NOMINATION

Cllr G. Clague.

Mr W.R. Evans, 19 Linden Walk, Prestatyn.

PLEASE NOTE ONLY ONE VACANCY

RHUDDLAN C.P. (YSGOL Y CASTELL)

Local Member: Councillor F.D. Jones - S. Thomas

No. of LEA Governors: 4

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr F.D. Jones	12.4.02
Cllr S. Thomas	14.10.01
Mr John D.A. McCormick, 5 Cwrt Gwindy, Gwindy St, Rhuddlan	17.5.05
Mrs Jane E. Colclough, The Warren, Hylas Lane, Rhuddlan	2.2.04

NOMINATION

Cllr S. Thomas.

TERM OF OFFICE TO COMMENCE 14.10.01

LLANFAIR D.C. (C)

Local Member: Councillor G. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Mr Paul Crowther, 5 Bron y Clwyd, Llanfair D.C, Ruthin	21.12.04
Mrs Sheila Audrey Palmer, Bron-y-Graig, Pwllglas, Ruthin	18.12.00

NOMINATION

Mr Elwyn A. Jones, 6 Tan y Bryn, Pwllglas, Ruthin.

ST. ASAPH (INFANTS) V.P. (C)

Local Member: Councillor D.A. Thomas

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr D.A. Thomas	21.9.03
Ms Judith Ann Owen, 23 Roe Parc, St Asaph	15.3.04
Mr George Williams, 61 Bishops Walk, St Asaph	16.9.01

NOMINATION

Mr George Williams, 61 Bishops Walk, St Asaph.

TERM OF OFFICE TO COMMENCE 16.9.01

County Clerk

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor K E Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning

DATE: 13 September 2001

SUBJECT: GCAT2 Agreement

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To gain approval from Members for Denbighshire County Council to sign up to the GCAT2 collaborative procurement agreement.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

In 1997, Denbighshire County Council signed up to the current GCAT agreement and has purchased the majority of ICT equipment (hardware and software) through Computacentre, its main sub contractor.

The current GCAT arrangement will expire at the end of September 2001, the contract having run its full five year term. Since its inception in 1996 GCAT has become one of the largest and most successful examples of a collaborative procurement scheme in the UK public sector. Over 900 individual organisations from all parts of the public sector have registered to use GCAT, thus reducing procurement costs and effectively pooling their purchasing power for the benefit of everyone. Since Computacentre's appointment to operate the GCAT contract, the number of customers has trebled and the choice of approved suppliers has increased sevenfold.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Procuring IT products and services can be extremely time consuming and a costly process for the ICT Department. However, by signing up to the GCAT2 agreement both time and costs associated with procurement can be significantly reduced through its pre-tendered call off facility. The scheme provides the following benefits:-

- ◆ Compliance with EC procurement legislation
- ◆ Ability to call off urgent requirements quickly
- ◆ Competitive prices
- ◆ Wide choice of products and services
- ◆ Ease of ordering
- ◆ Sound contractual protection based on best practice
- ◆ e-Commerce facilities
- ◆ Improved management information

The GCAT2 e-catalogue is currently being developed and will offer customers a single log on facility to the range of suppliers' catalogue entries. In order to ensure that the catalogue content is kept up to date at all times, suppliers will maintain their own data. However, the Office of Government Commerce will monitor the e-catalogue to ensure quality and correctness.

Joining GCAT2 does not preclude other procurement methods if they are deemed to be better value.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no cost implications.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Internal Audit, Chair of Policy Review and Resources.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet agree to Denbighshire County Council joining up to the new GCAT2 contract.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism

DATE: 13 September, 2001

SUBJECT: Draft Culture and Leisure Strategy

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To consider the draft strategy in detail and agree in principle the strategy subject to amendments from the consultation process. The strategy aims to be an overarching document that guides the service plans of the County Council and the work of its partners.

2. Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 The Culture and Leisure conference 'A Foundation for the Future' was held on 16th May at the Royal International Pavilion Llangollen where over 300 organisations and individuals were invited to participate in establishing the key themes and priorities for Culture and Leisure in Denbighshire.

Following the conference a small editorial group was established to develop a framework that encompassed all of the issues arising from the day and incorporated targets for improvement. The title 'Pick and Mix' symbolises the approach that people usually take to culture and leisure, they 'pick' the areas that are of interest to them for example reading and sport and then 'mix' different events and activities to suit their interest and needs. These choices are a vital part of quality of life and change throughout our lifetime. The importance is not what people choose but that they have the choice and feel able to participate. Through participation in culture and leisure people can build self confidence, learning new skills, improve their health, meet new friends and develop a career. Therefore culture and leisure contributes to social inclusion, life long learning and economic regeneration of Denbighshire.

The strategy contains some examples to illustrate the actions. These are just a few examples of good practice that exist within the county but not everything, they signpost the different specialist areas within culture and leisure and some geographical coverage of the county.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 The strategy sets the direction for Culture and Leisure for the next eight years and resources will be prioritised towards achieving these actions. The cost implications for beginning the implementation of the strategy in 2002/03 are contained within the overall budget report for Culture and Leisure.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 The recent zero base budget exercise for these services highlighted a net budget pressure for the current year with one off savings that are unlikely to recur next year. Any implications arising from the strategy will need to be considered as part of proposals to bring the budget in on target and set the budget for next year.

5. Consultation Carried Out

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has been carried out. The draft strategy has been sent to all organisations and individuals invited to the conference which included all Town and Community Councils, voluntary organisations and regional agencies. Copies have also been made available in libraries across the county for general public comments. Comments on the draft are required by 1st October and the strategy will be published in November 2001.

6. Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

- 6.1 The Culture and Leisure Draft Strategy embraces the Corporate objectives of the County Council.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 To consider the draft strategy in detail and agree in principle the strategy subject to amendments from the consultation process, as an overarching document that guides the service plans of the County Council and the work of its partners.

Draft Culture and Leisure Strategy for Consultation August 2001

PICK & MIX CHOOSING CULTURE AND LEISURE IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Introduction

Culture and leisure activities are essential ingredients in the life of our community. This strategy has been developed through a collaborative and inclusive process beginning with a conference held in May 2001 at Llangollen, 'A Foundation for the Future' where the key themes and priorities for the strategy were identified. The strategy aims to present the collective vision and sets the direction for the next eight years, until 2010. The strategy aims to be an over arching meaningful document that will guide the work of the County Council and all its partners to develop high quality and accessible culture and leisure provision for Denbighshire.

What is Culture and Leisure?

Throughout this strategy culture and leisure encompasses activities such as

- Countryside, conservation and archaeology
- Cultural tourism, festivals, resorts and attractions
- Libraries, Literature and information
- Museums, heritage and archives,
- Performing arts, visual arts, craft and music
- Sport, events and recreation
- Welsh language and culture
- Youth clubs, projects and activities

Our Vision

To celebrate and promote culture and leisure in Denbighshire, creating an environment in which culture and leisure can flourish and play a fundamental part in enriching people lives and regenerating the county.

1. Opening Doors

Aim: To increase access to culture and leisure facilities and programmes by removing physical, economic and social barriers to enable and encourage people to take part.

Actions:

- i. Develop customer friendly and welcoming facilities with helpful, caring and knowledgeable staff that meet the needs and expectations of the community.
- ii. Provide programmes that reach out to people and breakdown those barriers which prevent participation, specifically to increase the number of outreach programmes by 20% by 2003 particularly to isolated or disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Ensure that all venues and programmes provide information and intellectual, physical and sensory access by 2004 in accordance with the Disabilities Discriminations Act.
- iv. Provide culture and leisure services and programmes that are affordable and value for money.

- v. Pay particular attention to the individual needs of specific groups including people with disabilities, older people, young people and culturally diverse communities when developing programmes.

2. Learning For Life

Aim: To enhance people's lives, particularly young people by providing innovative and meaningful opportunities for life-long learning in culture and leisure.

Actions:

- i. Foster and promote the Welsh language and culture as an integral part of all activities and programmes.
- ii. Prioritise services and programmes that engage, challenge and motivate children and young people.
- iii. Nurture talent by providing the opportunity for self-expression, self-confidence and realisation of potential.
- iv. Strengthen partnerships with schools and other organisations to increase knowledge and understanding of the role and contribution of culture and leisure programmes to learning.
- v. Enable a 30% increase in the number of out of school activities across the county by 2005.
- vi. Encourage education and employment organisations to provide high quality and relevant opportunities for people to access training, advice and employment in the culture and leisure sector.
- vii. Maximise learning opportunities for the community by providing improved computer facilities and Internet access at all libraries across the county by 2003.
- viii. Develop New Deal or Modern Apprenticeships for young people enabling them to make culture and leisure a career choice whilst providing valuable employment opportunities.

3. Opportunities for All

Aim: To promote and encourage participation in culture and leisure, pursuing the highest quality and widest choice to suit varied interests.

Actions:

- i. Increase by 30% by 2004 the number of participatory programmes and projects specifically targeting areas of greatest social and community need.
- ii. Promote the physical health and mental well-being benefits of participation in culture and leisure projects and programmes.
- iii. Encourage local people of all ages to become involved in the shaping of culture and leisure services to foster local ownership and inclusion through initiatives such as Leisure Forums and Denbighshire Youth Forum.
- iv. Encourage and value the contribution of volunteers and promote specific initiatives which stimulate volunteering.
- v. Enable communities to develop their own programmes, projects and events, supporting the work of local champions and enthusiasts.

- vi. Ensure that people have easy access to culture and leisure information through developments such as One Stop Shops and the Web.

4. Working With and Through Others

Aims: To seek opportunities to develop partnerships, share resources and secure investment for maximum community benefit.

Actions:

- i. Promote a greater collaboration across the specialist areas within culture and leisure to maintain and improve the services to the public.
- ii. Strengthen and create local and national partnerships that improve the quality and range of culture and leisure provision within the county.
- iii. Encourage local businesses to become patrons, sponsors and partners in realising innovative culture and leisure programmes.
- iv. Seek external funding and investment to meet local priorities and to maximise services through efficient management of available resources.
- v. Recognise and value the local partnerships with nationally important cultural organisations located within the county such as Bodelwyddan Castle Trust and the National Portrait Gallery, Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod, ECTARC and North Wales Music Festival
- vi. Work in partnership with the economic and business sector to maximise the contribution of cultural tourism to economic regeneration of Denbighshire.

5. Striving for the Best

Aim: To achieve the strategy through good planning and good practice, striving for quality and excellence in all areas of culture and leisure provision.

Actions:

- i. Develop realistic and achievable plans and programmes.
- ii. Encourage collaboration, information sharing, networking and promote good practice.
- iii. Provide a balanced programme to suit the needs of both local people and visitors to the county.
- iv. Maintain a strategic overview of all culture and leisure programmes and facilities identifying development needs.
- v. Seek opportunities for the redevelopment, of facilities such as the Old Chapel, Scala, Ruthin Craft Centre, Nant Clwyd House, Royal International Pavilion and Corwen Pavilion
- vi. Implement a facilities improvement plan to ensure that all existing amenities such as community leisure facilities remain up to date and in good condition within the available resources.
- vii. Review changing community needs and ensure they are reflected in opening times and programming.
- viii. Consult local people in order to maintain quality and relevance of cultural and leisure programmes and activities.

6. Delivering the Vision

Aim: To raise the profile of Denbighshire's distinctive character, environment and culture nationally and internationally.

Actions:

- i. Increase the use of culture and leisure as a magnet for inward cultural tourism, increasing the number of visitors to key attractions including the Old Gaol and Loggerheads Country Park.
- ii. Care, conserve and raise the profile of the nationally important natural assets and historic landscapes of the county such as Denbigh Castle and the Clwydian Range, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- iii. Promote cultural tourism as an asset to improve the county's national and international image and contribute to Denbighshire's economic regeneration.
- iv. Improve coastal culture and leisure attractions such as the Rhyl Pavilion Theatre, Marine Lake and Ffrith Beach to increase enjoyment for tourists and to encourage return visits.
- v. Develop an effective marketing strategy that promotes the value of culture and leisure services, achieving national and international recognition for good practice.
- vi. Create a new and dynamic image for culture and leisure in Denbighshire.
- vii. Develop an effective communication strategy to ensure that people remain informed and involved in culture and leisure.
- viii. Encourage and support research, conferences and seminars to expand knowledge and promote wider understanding of culture and leisure in Denbighshire.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER, 2001

SUBJECT: A494 PWLLGLAS: TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Report requested for information purposes

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Background to problem :

- A large retaining wall parallel to the A494 trunk road partially collapsed as a result of the floods in November 2000.
- The nature and extent of the collapse was such that temporary traffic lights had to be erected in the interests of the safety of the travelling public.
- The retaining wall is classified as a structure and, being on the A494 trunk road, is the responsibility of the National Assembly for Wales, as Highway Authority.
- Under the terms of the North East Wales Trunk Road Partnership, all structural matters on the trunk road network are dealt with, on behalf of the National Assembly, by the Structures Group, located in Conwy County Borough Council
- Initially, it is understood that difficulties were experienced with the scheme, due to unwillingness on the part of an adjacent landowner to grant access for survey and construction work.
- Access to the land has now been obtained (June 2001), a ground investigation has been carried out and design of a new retaining wall is in progress with Conwy CBC.
- Conwy advise that they expect the design to be complete this month and, allowing for contract procurement, work should start on site in November 2001.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Cost implications for Denbighshire County Council are Nil. The A494 is a trunk road and, as such, all works carried out upon it are the direct responsibility of, and funded by, National Assembly for Wales.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

No cost implications

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

National Assembly for Wales
Conwy County Borough Council

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

No impact on other policy areas

7 RECOMMENDATION

Members note the factors affecting the procurement of a solution to this problem on the A494 trunk road in Denbighshire, and the proposed timescale for resolution.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2001

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Authority is sought to make and implement at an appropriate time the above Order

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The making of the above Order is required to amend The Rhuddlan Borough Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 1992 by the closure of the parking place specified as "Greenfield Place, Rhyl" in the schedule to the 1992 Order.

It is a condition of the present contract for the sale of Greenfield Place that the 1992 Order is amended as the above prior to the completion of the sale.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the physical removal of the existing 'Pay and Display' machines

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The sale of the site concerned is a key element in producing additional capital resources to boost the Council's Capital programme. The sale will result in a loss of income but will also reduce the cost of car park maintenance in future years.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Full consultation has been carried out with interested parties and public notice of the Council's proposals has been advertised in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders, Regulations 1996.

No objections or representations have been received in respect of the proposal to make the present Order

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The Council has identified Greenfield Place as a key site for redevelopment to provide further retail floorspace to contribute to the vitality and viability of Rhyl Town Centre. The site is allocated in both the current and emerging development plans as a site for retail development and lies within the town centre boundary.

Although the making of the present Order will eventually result in the loss of a public car park controlled by the Council, the proposed development of Greenfield Place will allow for linked trips to the site and town centre with the availability of car parking on the site for this purpose.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of officers that authority be granted for the Council to make and implement the present proposed Order at an appropriate stage within the timescale for the sale of Greenfield Place.

REPORT TO CABINET: PAPER PRESENTED BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: POLICY AGREEMENTS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

For Cabinet to:

- (i) agree response to the Draft Protocol for Evaluating Performance.
- (ii) agree the response on Fundamental Themes contained in the Policy Agreement.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

At the Cabinet meeting on the 30 August, the Corporate Director - Resources presented a report on the actions required to finalise the Policy Agreements. A copy of this is enclosed, and Cabinet agreed the actions as the way forward.

3 COST IMPLICATION

Nil

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER'S STATEMENT

Finalisation of the Policy Agreements will result in the authority receiving £327k as part of the funding associated with Policy Agreements.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Extensive consultation has been carried out in the developing of the individual targets. The Policy Agreements were also discussed at a Joint Scrutiny meeting in July. Delays in the Assembly in producing the Protocol on Evaluating Performance has allowed the authority an opportunity to further review the Policy Agreements at Scrutiny, which is taking place in September. It also allows Policy Agreements to be brought within the budget cycle.

6 IMPLICATION ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

The Policy Agreements have a significant impact on the policy areas within the Agreement, and must be consistent with the aims of the Authority.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- i) That Cabinet agree the Draft Protocol on Evaluating Performance.
- ii) That Cabinet agree the Fundamental Themes section as contained in the Policy Agreement.

POLICY AGREEMENTS

VERBAL REPORT TO CABINET 30 AUGUST 2001

UPDATE ON CURRENT POSITION

- Work has been ongoing for several months on each of the Policy Areas:
 - 1 Better opportunities for Learners
 - 2 Better Health and Well-being
 - 3 Better Stronger Economy
 - 4 Better Quality of Life
- Targets for 2003/2004 have been agreed with NAFW in all areas. Some work still outstanding around Better Health and Well-being, particularly concerning the quality of base data.
- Joint Scrutiny meeting in July approved the draft agreement (updated copy enclosed) subject to addressing the data quality issues and identifying the costs of implementing the policies. The matter was referred back to Cabinet for final authority.
- The protocol for evaluating performance is not yet agreed. A draft protocol (copy enclosed) has been circulated by NAFW for consultation and needs to be responded to by 14 September.
- There is a concern that the implications of the Policy Agreements have not been fully discussed in Scrutiny and Cabinet - for example consistency with corporate/directorate priorities and the financial resources required to achieve the targets.
- It is therefore suggested that the delay in finalising the protocol for evaluating performance is used to undertake a final review of the Policy Agreements document. Any relevant issues should also be raised at Budget meetings.

A suggested time scale is therefore:

Date	Meeting	Purpose
mid-September	Directorate Scrutiny	Review and agree the individual policies and identify the resource implications (if any)
13 September	Cabinet	(i) Agree response to draft protocol on evaluating performance. (ii) Review response to Fundamental Themes.
14 September	AE	Formally respond to draft protocol on evaluating performance.
25 September	Cabinet	(i) Finalise Policy Agreements document. (ii) Agree allocation of additional funding.

POLICY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES AND DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Agreement

- 1 The National Assembly for Wales ("the Assembly") and Denbighshire County Council ("the Council") jointly share the broad policy aims and objectives set out in the strategic plan "A Better Wales". This Agreement sets out specific targets in areas of shared priority which the Council will seek to achieve with the aid of the Assembly. It also sets out how the Assembly and the Council will work together and with other partners to pursue those broader shared aims.
- 2 The Assembly and local government are committed to partnership working arrangements, focused on achieving agreed policy outcomes that will contribute to the achievement of social, economic and environmental well-being for people in each part of Wales. They recognize the distinctive role that each has in the governance of Wales, and in achieving complementary and effective strategic policy development and action at the national and local levels. The concept of this Policy Agreement has been agreed by the Local Government Partnership Council for Wales - the statutory joint council of the Assembly and local government in Wales.
- 3 This Agreement is set in the context of:
 - the duty on local authorities in Wales to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area, giving them a leadership role in developing community planning which will foster a shared strategic approach between all the key players across each local authority area;
 - many other procedures for improving performance information in Welsh local government through the annual Best Value Performance Plan and information relating to specific services such as education and social services;
 - the local government scheme which the Assembly has set out under the Government of Wales Act 1998 on how it will promote local government.
- 4 This Agreement shifts the emphasis from inputs to outcomes. It is based on the understanding that the problems to be tackled and the opportunities to be grasped can only be handled effectively if the broad policy framework and the key objectives are shared, while leaving maximum discretion for local flexibility in how they are to be achieved. We expect the concept of Policy Agreements to develop further, in tandem with the development of partnership working to deliver community strategies. This first Agreement represents a "point of entry" and the beginning of a new era in the relationship between the Assembly and local government.
- 5 Local authorities and the National Assembly are committed to the modernisation of public services. Fundamental to the achievement of this agenda is a commitment to change and improvement. This policy Agreement and the objectives and targets that support it are an important means of giving effect to this commitment.
6. This is a framework document. The targets for achievement identified in it do not replace the comprehensive strategies, plans, objectives, performance measures and detailed targets which the Council and the National Assembly have in place, but rest

upon them. Delivery of the targets identified here will depend on the quality and successful delivery of those plans as well.

Our Shared Aims

7. The Assembly and local government have a shared determination to achieve the vision which "A Better Wales" (which was refined by the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Scheme made on 16 November 2000) sets out:

They agree that action needs to be taken to secure:

- Better opportunities for learning
- A better, stronger economy
- Better health and well being
- Better quality of life
- Better simpler government.

OUR VISION

We want Wales to be:

- ❖ United, confident and creative
- ❖ Committed to fostering its unique and diverse identity, and the benefits of bilingualism, while looking confidently outwards and welcoming new cultural influences
- ❖ Prosperous, well-educated, skilled, healthy, environmentally and culturally rich
- ❖ Served by modern, effective, efficient and accessible public services
- ❖ Active in its local communities, where the voice of local people is heard
- ❖ Fairer - a place where everyone is valued and given an opportunity to play a full part
- ❖ A place which values its children and where young people want to live, work and enjoy a high quality of life

8 The Council will address these key action areas in developing its community strategy in partnership with local people, community and voluntary organisations, business, all other key public sector organisations and the Assembly itself. In doing so, it will develop the following three fundamental themes:

- ❖ **Sustainable development:** meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own
- ❖ **Tackling social disadvantage:** the development of an inclusive society where everyone has the chance to fulfill their potential
- ❖ **Equal opportunities:** the promotion of a culture in which diversity is valued and equality of opportunity is a reality

9 The Council will publish its Community Strategy in 2011 and Best Value Performance Plan annually in June. As well as containing its Policy Agreement targets and specific objectives and the areas of success, it recognises that the community strategy is a prime vehicle for the achievement of the above fundamental themes, specifically we will:

Fundamental Themes

a. Voluntary Sector

The Authority has set up a Voluntary Sector Liaison group. This comprises 8 members of the voluntary sector and 8 Member/Officers of the County Council. Its purpose is to facilitate joint strategic planning. All proposed strategies where they impinge on the voluntary sector will be discussed with this group. The Voluntary Sector will advise the authority on its overall strategy as well as contributing both ideas and content. The Voluntary Sector will also be involved on whatever strategic body the Council sets up to oversee community strategies for the whole of Denbighshire and any sub groups.

b. Evaluate its Strategies Against Sustainability Criteria.

Denbighshire is seeking to evolve a bottom up approach to community strategies. As such sustainability criteria will be developed in consultation with communities and our leading partners. The design of our strategies therefore will incorporate sustainability as a leading theme.

The test of sustainability which the authority will encourage to be adopted by communities and partners will be threefold:

- Does the community strategy continue to have the support of the community for which it is designed.
- Does the plan allow the community to grow and change without prejudicing the life of future communities
- Does the plan lead to an enhancement of quality of life issues:

The final test would be measured against the leading quality indicators local determined and put forward in the joint strategies and which complement the aims of Better Wales.Com.

Equality Issues

The strategy will adopt an equalities charter which will stress its commitment to acting on equalities issues.

This will require each individual partnership Member to agree to systems and procedures for monitoring performance on equalities and to take effective and appropriate action.

The Authority will encourage partners to report on ACPI's and BVPI's relating to equality issues (shortly to become NAW PI's) establishing information systems to enable accurate and commensurate information.

The Community Plan strategy will require all relevant partners to set targets to enable the equality issues to be practically addressed. National indicators will be supplemented by locally agreed indicators relating to each area partnership.

Standards and procedures as laid out in the Authorities Best Value tool kit and equalities tool will be encouraged throughout the partnership as part of good partnership practice.

Action on equalities will be indicated within member organisations planning documents.

Tackling Social Disadvantage

The community strategy will be linked to our community first response, but this will be only one way in which social disadvantage will be addressed.

The Council seek with its partners to pool data on deprivation and social needs.

It will seek to expand the capacity of areas to articulate their needs It will also seek to establish ways of identifying need in rural and geographically dispersed communities.

It will seek to review all current service provision within the community partnership to determine whether service response matches identified needs.

It will develop appropriate strategies to focus effort across the partnership for limiting the effects of disadvantage and where possible removing disadvantage and to set appropriate targets.

By developing an area partnership structure community strategy in Denbighshire will enable the community to identify measures they feel will assist with the removal of disadvantage.

10. The Council also recognises the value of co-operation and joint working with other local authorities and with the NHS. This will be essential to the delivery of the targets identified. For its part, the Assembly will consider any representations from the Council regarding barriers to joint working which the Assembly could help to address. It is vital that the issues of health and well-being are addressed in a holistic manner which recognises that many local government services have a major impact on the determinants of ill-health.
11. The Assembly will strongly encourage the organisations and groups over which it has influence to play their full part as a willing partner to the Council in the preparation and implementation of the community strategy. It will also review the scope for streamlining the requirements it places on local government. This will include:

- aiming for a clearer, simpler framework of planning requirements so that people can see how individual strategies and service plans fit under the overarching community strategy;
- encouraging similar flexibility over partnership requirements;
- reviewing and consolidating grant schemes where it makes sense to do so, in order to reduce the administrative burden on local government and allow greater flexibility in the way that the Council and its partners can achieve shared objectives; and
- looking for scope to remove regulatory restrictions on local authorities where these are hindering them from pursuing the shared objectives.

The Assembly will report periodically on the specific measures it has taken.

Appraisal of Targets

12. The Council and the Assembly recognise that the issues addressed by the targets set in this Agreement are ones which are relevant to improving people's lives in every part of Wales. But different areas of Wales start from a different baseline of existing achievement. The specific targets set out overleaf are ones which have been proposed by the Council and agreed by the Assembly as representing a real improvement over existing levels of attainment and compatible, when taken together with targets set by other authorities across Wales, with progress towards national or European targets where they exist. The Council and the Assembly will assess performance against the targets in the Agreement with reference also to other performance information available in the Council's plans for education, social services, transport, environmental services and the Best Value Performance Plan and through other existing means such as inspection services.

Duration of Our Agreement

- 13 This Agreement is made for the three years beginning 1 April 2001. Progress under this Agreement will be monitored annually against the milestones identified, in accordance with a mechanism agreed between the Assembly and the Welsh Local Government Association. The agreement will be subject to an annual appraisal, which will provide an opportunity to review it and to respond to changing circumstances. For instance this annual review will be used to change the education targets as allowed by the statutory review of Education Strategic Plan targets. It will also allow further refinement of the social services indicators in the light of developments in what is a new performance measurement framework.

In that sense the targets set out in this agreement are accepted conditionally, but can only be changed with the mutual agreement of the authority and the National Assembly.

14. The conclusion of this Agreement, with the targets identified below, has been supported by a specific grant of £327,000 from the Assembly to assist the Council in achieving those targets. It is at the discretion of the Council how exactly that grant is deployed. Achievement of the targets will result in payment of a further grant of £981,000 (based on the current distribution formula) relating to the financial year 2003/2004. Partial achievement, or achievement at the expense of other stated targets

and requirements, will result in partial payment of that sum. The way in which performance against targets will be assessed will be set out in a protocol to be agreed between the Assembly and the WLGA. The precise terms and conditions of the grant will be set out separately.

Signed

Signed

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On behalf of the National Assembly for Wales

On behalf of the National Assembly for Wales

KEY OBJECTIVES AND TARGET MEASURES

1. BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

Our Objective

That standards of teaching and attainment in all our schools continue to rise, that high quality physical conditions are secured and that all young people can gain the range of knowledge and skills required to fulfill their potential.

The prime indicators and targets for this are:

- ❖ **an increase in the proportion of 11 year olds achieving at least Level 4 in the Core Subject Indicator from 60.1% in 1999/2000 to 65% in 2003/2004.**
- ❖ **an increase in the proportion of 15 year olds achieving five or more GCSE grades A* to C or vocational equivalent from 48% in 1999/2000 to 56.8% in 2003/2004.**
- ❖ **an increase in the rates of attendance ("those present or on approved educational activities") in secondary schools from 90.9% in 1999/2000 to 92% in 2003/2004.**
- ❖ **a reduction in the number of 15 year olds (including those in local authority care) leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification from 27 pupils in 1999/2000 to 25 pupils in 2003/2004.**

2. BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Our Objective

That older people live in comfort and dignity in their own homes wherever possible, by providing support which also recognises the role and wishes of carers.

The prime indicators for this are:

- ❖ **the number of older people (aged 65 or over) helped to live at home per thousand population aged 65 or over.**
- ❖ **the rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per thousand population aged 75 or over.**
- ❖ **the number of people aged 65 or over whom the authority supports in residential care homes or nursing homes per thousand population aged 65 or over.**

The following baselines and targets have been agreed with the Assembly:

- ❖ **Older People Helped to Live at Home:** an increase from the baseline of 116 per thousand in 2000/2001 to 98 per thousand by 2003/2004.

- ❖ **Delayed Transfers:** maintain the baseline of 2.53 per thousand in 2000/2001 at 2.53 per thousand by 2003/2004 (and keep under review).
- ❖ **Older People in Residential and Nursing Homes:** a decrease from the baseline of 24 per thousand in 2000/2001 to 22 per thousand by 2003/2004.

Our Objective

That adults with physical disabilities, learning difficulties and mental health problems live independently in the community wherever possible and that the burdens of long term care on families are reduced.

The prime indicators and targets for this are:

- ❖ **the percentage of adult clients receiving a written statement of their needs and how they will be met;**
- ❖ **the number of adults aged under 65 whom the authority helps to live at home per thousand adults aged under 65, in each of the following client groups separately:**
 - **physical or sensory disabled**
 - **learning disabled**
 - **with mental health problems.**

The following separate baselines and targets have been agreed with the Assembly:

- ❖ **Written Statement of Needs:** an increase from the baseline of 85% in 1999/2000 to 100% by 2003/2004.
- ❖ **People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities Helped:** an increase from the baseline of 3.83 per thousand in 1999/2000 to 3.46 per thousand by 2003/2004.
- ❖ **People with Learning Disabilities Helped:** an increase from the baseline of 0.15 per thousand in 1999/2000 to 5 per thousand by 2003/2004.
- ❖ **People with Mental Health Problems Helped:** maintain the baseline of 5.25 per thousand in 2000/2001 at 5.25 per thousand in 2003/2004.

Our Objective

That vulnerable children are protected from harm and those looked after by authorities are provided with the best possible start in life.

The prime indicators for this are:

- ❖ **the proportion of young people in care on their 16th birthday who have a suitable plan for their continuing care.**
- ❖ **the proportion of first placements for looked after children beginning with a care plan in place.**

❖ **the percentage of cases of children with an allocated social worker who is providing a service appropriate to the child's need in each of the following groups separately:**

- **children in need**
- **children looked after**
- **children on the child protection register.**

The following separate baselines and targets have been agreed with the Assembly.

❖ **Young People with a Care Plan:** an increase from the baseline of 62.5% in 2000/2001 to 100% by 2003/2004.

❖ **First Placements for Looked After Children:** an increase from the baseline of 85% in 1999/2000 to 95% by 2003/2004.

❖ **Allocation of Social Workers to Children in Need:**
outstanding - awaiting assembly guidance

❖ **Allocation of Social Workers to Children Looked After:** maintain the baseline of 100% in 1999/2000 at 100% by 2003/2004.

3. A BETTER STRONGER ECONOMY

Our Objective

To develop a better co-ordinated and sustainable transport system to support local communities, improving accessibility and supporting the creation of a successful economy.

The Assembly guidance stated that “this needs the development of an approach for measuring and assessing modal shift in the area”.

The North Wales Economic Forum (the Taith Consortium) has been in discussion with the Assembly regarding a suitable approach for North Wales. The Assembly has recognised that there is a lack of data on travel in the region apart from major road traffic flows. It has agreed that, in the longer term, Taith will develop a North Wales Transport Model to establish where there are the best opportunities to influence modal shift or where there is the greatest need to reduce car/lorry movements. This will then provide input to future policy agreements.

For the present agreement the Assembly has agreed that each local authority can develop its own baseline data to measure changes in public transport patronage around key travel centres. The County Council will as part of the agreement undertake the following steps:-

1. Measure public transport patronage at the key centres of Rhyl town centre, Glan Clwyd Hospital and St Asaph Business Park.

The Council has been involved in discussions to promote the use of public transport to and from Glan Clwyd Hospital and St Asaph Business Park. The Local Transport Plan contains a target “to increase the number of passengers on services subject to Quality Bus Partnerships (QBP) by 10% over a five year period”. The QBPs are centered on Rhyl, the first is currently being developed for the coast road corridor through Rhyl and Prestatyn, while the Glan Clwyd Hospital and St Asaph Business Park routes are proposed for QBPs for next financial year.

2. Discussions will take place with the main public transport operators to measure patronage based on ticket information for the “neutral” month of October. Should agreement not be possible the Council will establish its own cost effective monitoring system.
3. Baseline figures will be collected in October 2001. These will then be used, together with other relevant data on fares, service frequencies and aspects of competing modes (e.g. petrol and parking costs for private motorists) to seek to understand future changes in patronage.
4. On the basis of the trends established to set a target for public transport patronage within the three year period covered by the agreement

4. BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

Our Objective

To achieve high standards in the management of our environment.

The prime indicator and target for this is:

❖ an increase in the proportion of municipal waste recycled or composted from 4.2% in 1999/2000 to 15% in 2003/ 2004.

The Council proposes to achieve the overall 15% target through 7.5% recycling and 7.5% composting.

APPENDICES NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM